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MY SUMMER IN WASHINGTON

LI Youth Worked in Humphrey's Office

By PAUL TROOP

"He will discuss the most complex matter in a relaxed, informal manner without appearing as if he's trying to choose his words or trying to hide something from you."

This was one of the first observations Steven Simmons of Great Neck Plaza made about his boss last summer — Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

Back home at 13 Welwyn Rd., the 19-year-old Simmons talked about his summer as one of four U.S. college students selected to work in the vice president's office.

Simmons said he didn't work directly with Humphrey, but with his top aide, John Stewart, in the vice president's office in the New Senate Office Building.

"I KNEW I would have responsibility but I didn't think I would be preparing material that very well could lead to the creation of a program for getting more college and high school students involved in the War On Poverty," he said.

Simmons and another student, Reid Feldman of Washington, were told to prepare a paper on student involvement for Humphrey, chairman of the president's Youth Opportunity Task Force.

After a summer of interviewing anti-poverty officials across the country over the telephone and through the mails the two produced a 45-page report.

"I became acquainted with the vast extent of anti-poverty work in this country and the tremendous need to increase it," he said. "The involvement of college students, we discovered, was not great and we made our own recommendations on how this could be changed."

THE GREAT Neck youth didn't want to go into the details of the proposals, ex-



Vice President Hubert Humphrey discusses a report with Steven Simmons of Great Neck Plaza, who worked as a summer intern in the Vice President's office.

plaining that this was up to the vice president to release.

Simmons' summer wasn't just spent working on the report. During his last school year at Cornell University, as a sophomore, he originated the Cornell Public Affairs Summer Intern Program that won the official support of the university.

He arranged weekly meetings with top Washington figures for the 33 Cornell students working during the summer in the capitol.

They spent hours talking

with people like Sen. Lee Metcalf of Montana, Selective Service Director Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Sen. Jacob Javits, House Minority Leader Gerald Ford, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black and CIA Director Richard Helms.

SIMMONS should feel at home with these political leaders because at Cornell he held elective offices and was active in political affairs.

He was freshman class president. He gained attention when he formed the Ivy League Freshman Council

of freshman presidents at eight colleges. They met periodically to discuss common problems.

He again was also elected president of his sophomore college.

Now entering his junior year, Simmon has "retired" from active campus life to devote his time to the summer intern program and his grades. He intends to go to Law School and eventually enter government service.

He is the son Mrs. Edith Simmons, former Great Neck School Board president.

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